

P22032.A02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Mitsuru TAKAI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2641

Appl. No. :

10/084,177

Filed

February 28, 2002

For

NEXT PROCESS-DETERMINING METHOD, INSPECTING METHOD

AND INSPECTING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

RECEIVED MAY 2 8 2002

Technology Center 2600

Assistant Commissioner of Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §§1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-242746, which was published on September 7, 1999. Applicants note that this document is discussed on pages 2, 4, and 26 of the specification of the above-captioned application; and

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. 2000-251069, which was published on September 14, 2000. Applicants note that this document is discussed on pages 3 and 5 of the specification of the above-captioned application.

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Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and

cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and are listed

on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. The Examiner is respectfully requested

to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the

completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present

application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the

undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted, Mitsuru TAKAI et al.

T Was

Bruce H. Bernstein

Reg. No. 29,027

May 24, 2002

GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.

1941 Roland Clarke Place

Reston, VA 20191

(703) 716-1191

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